

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A paint composition for thermal drying,  
which comprises an emulsion having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower and organic fine particles having a mean particle diameter of 15 µm or smaller, wherein the organic fine particles exhibit high hardness, have a glass transition temperature of higher than 50°C, are crosslinked substances, and do not melt or decompose during thermal drying of the paint composition even when it is dried at 160°C.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1,  
wherein said emulsion is formed by emulsion polymerizing a monomer component with a reactive emulsifier.
4. (Previously Presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1,  
wherein said emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -50 to 40°C.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled).
7. (Previously Presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion has a gel fraction of 0 to 45 mass %, measured with a toluene solvent.
8. (Currently Amended) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion is such that when it is formulated into a dampening coating

formulation, the loss factor (loss tangent:  $\tan \sigma$ ) of the dampening coating formulation is not less than 0.15 at 25°C.

9. (Previously Presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the organic fine particle is (meth)acrylic acid base emulsion or polymethyl (meth) acrylate-based crosslinked substances.

10. (Previously Presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature (T<sub>g</sub>) of the organic fine particle is 60°C or higher.

11. (Previously Presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein a blending amount of the emulsion having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower in the paint composition for thermal drying is set in such a way that a solid matter content of the emulsion having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower is 7 mass % or more with respect to 100 mass % of the paint composition for thermal drying and 50 mass % or less.